



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE OFFICE RECEIVES NEW HAMPSHIRE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AWARD**

MANCHESTER, NH—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Manchester was one of the recipients of the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation's unit citation award in a ceremony Sunday.

The award was given to the member agencies of the New England HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Financial Task Force for the outstanding investigation that led to the arrest of a drug kingpin and many Manchester area defendants on various state and federal charges.

The award was presented yesterday at the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation's annual award ceremony recognizing outstanding investigations and acts of bravery. In attendance from the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation were Senator John Sununu and Congressmen Charles Bass and Jeb Bradley. The citation presented to ICE was received by Matthew J. Etre, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in New England.

"Cooperation and coordination are key to the success of any joint law enforcement action," said Matthew J. Etre, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in New England. "This type of cooperation is essential to ensure security and safety in our communities and in our country. ICE is pleased to receive this award along with our law enforcement partners who have made such significant contributions to this investigation."

ICE and the other participating task force agencies, were awarded for the investigation that resulted in the arrest of Christopher Bouchard, 33, of Manchester, and 20 other defendants. The arrests are the result of a two-year multi-agency investigation into a Manchester-based cocaine and marijuana ring. The individuals arrested are currently facing various drug trafficking, money laundering, and weapons charges. Christopher Bouchard was indicted in Hillsborough County for running a criminal drug enterprise. If convicted of this offense, Bouchard faces penalties of 25 years to life imprisonment.

ICE identified and seized the organization's assets, which include five vehicles valued at approximately \$185,000 and \$133,000 in U.S. currency. In addition, 11 lis pendens were filed on approximately \$5million worth of real property.

Other agencies participating in this investigation that are co-recipients of this award include: New Hampshire State Police, the IRS, the New Hampshire Attorney General, the United States Attorney, the Manchester and Bedford police departments, New England HIDTA and the DEA.

#### # ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*